

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
Report - March 2006

CHAPTER 3.1.2.

INFECTION WITH *BONAMIA EXITIOSA*

Article 3.1.2.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* means infection only with *Bonamia exitiosa*.

Methods for surveillance, diagnosis and confirmatory identification are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 3.1.2.2.

Susceptible species Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to ~~For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, susceptible species for infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* are:~~ Australian mud oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) and Chilean flat oyster (*O. chilensis*). ~~These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the *Aquatic Manual* when traded internationally.~~

~~To date, all species of the genus *Ostrea* exposed to *Bonamia exitiosa* have been shown to be susceptible species. Therefore, all species of these genera should be regarded as potentially susceptible species. *Bonamia* isolates closely related to *Bonamia exitiosa* have been reported from *O. puelchana* and *Crassostrea ariakensis*.~~

~~Suspected cases, as defined in the *Aquatic Manual*, of infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* in species other than those listed in this Article should be referred immediately to the appropriate OIE Reference Laboratory, whether or not clinical signs are associated with the findings.~~

Article 3.1.2.3.

Commodities

1. When authorising importation or transit of the following *commodities*, *Competent Authorities* should not require any *Bonamia exitiosa* related conditions, regardless of the *Bonamia exitiosa* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:
 - a) From the species referred to in Article 3.1.2.2., for any purpose:
 - i) commercially-sterile canned or other heat treated products;
 - ii) *gametes*, *eggs* and *larvae*.
 - b) The following *commodities* destined for human consumption from the species referred to in Article 3.1.2.2. which have been prepared in such a way as to minimise the likelihood of alternative uses:

- i) chemically preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated, etc.);
 - ii) non commercially sterile heat treated products (e.g. ready prepared meals) that have been heat treated in a manner to ensure the inactivation of the parasite;
 - iii) off the shell (chilled or frozen) packaged for direct retail trade;
 - iv) half-shell (chilled).
- c) All *commodities* from *Crassostrea gigas*, *C. virginica* and *Saccostrea glomerata*, including the live *aquatic animal*.

For the *commodities* referred to in point 1)b), Member Countries should consider introducing internal measures to prevent the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When authorising importation or transit of the *commodities* of a species referred to in Article 3.1.2.2., other than *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.2.3., *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 3.1.2.7. to 3.1.2.11. relevant to the *Bonamia exitiosa* status of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*.
3. When considering the importation or transit of any other *commodity* from bivalve species not referred to in Article 3.1.2.2. (especially those of the genus *Ostrea*) nor in point 1)c) of Article 3.1.2.3, from an *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free of *Bonamia exitiosa*, *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should conduct an analysis of the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of *Bonamia exitiosa* and the potential consequences associated with importation of the *commodity*, prior to a decision. The outcome of this assessment should be made available to the exporting country. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 3.1.2.4.

***Bonamia exitiosa* free country**

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from *Bonamia exitiosa* if it meets the conditions in points 1), 2), 3) or 4) below.

If a country shares a *zone* or *compartment* with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from *Bonamia exitiosa* if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared *Bonamia exitiosa* free zones (see Article 3.1.2.5.).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species ~~species of the genus *Ostrea*~~ is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from *Bonamia exitiosa* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where any species referred to in Article 3.1.2.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter 3.1.2. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a self-declaration of freedom

from *Bonamia exitiosa* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 2 years and infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a self-declaration of freedom from *Bonamia exitiosa* when:
 - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 2 years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *Bonamia exitiosa*.

OR

4. A country that has made a self-declaration of freedom from *Bonamia exitiosa* but in which the disease is detected may not make a self-declaration of freedom from *Bonamia exitiosa* again until the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) infected populations have been safely destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
 - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *Bonamia exitiosa*.

In the meantime, ~~one or more areas of the remaining territory may be declared free zones,~~
part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone, provided that they meet the conditions in point 3) of Article 3.1.2.5.

Article 3.1.2.5.

***Bonamia exitiosa* free zone or free compartment**

A *zone* or *compartment* free from *Bonamia exitiosa* may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* and declared free by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned, if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in points 1), 2), 3) or 4) below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a

Bonamia exitiosa free zone or compartment if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the zone or compartment.

1. In a country of unknown status for *Bonamia exitiosa*, a zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species ~~species of the genus *Ostrea*~~ is present may be declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. In a country of unknown status for *Bonamia exitiosa*, a zone or compartment where any species referred to in Article 3.1.2.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years and infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa* when:
 - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 2 years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *Bonamia exitiosa*.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa* but in which the disease is detected may not be declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa* again until the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) infected populations have been safely destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and

- c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *Bonamia exitiosa*.

Article 3.1.2.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa* following the provisions of points 1) or 2) of Articles 3.1.2.4. or 3.1.2.5., as relevant, may maintain its status as *Bonamia exitiosa* free provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa* following the provisions of point 3) of Articles 3.1.2.4. or 3.1.2.5., as relevant, may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as *Bonamia exitiosa* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free *zones* or *compartments* in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Competent Authority* on the basis of the likelihood of **re**infection.

Article 3.1.2.7.

Importation of live animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*

When importing live *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 3.1.2.4. or 3.1.2.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*.

The certificate **shall should** be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.3.1.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.2.3.

Article 3.1.2.8.

Importation of live animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*

When importing, for *aquaculture*, *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:

1. the consignment is delivered directly into and held in *quarantine* facilities; and
2. the imported *aquatic animals* are continuously isolated from the local environment; and
3. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Bonamia exitiosa*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.2.3.

Article 3.1.2.9.

Importation of live animals for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*

When importing, for processing for human consumption, *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities until processing and/or consumption; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Bonamia exitiosa*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.2.3.

Article 3.1.2.10.

Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* free from *Bonamia exitiosa*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 3.1.2.4. or 3.1.2.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*.

The certificate shall should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.3.2.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.2.3.

Article 3.1.2.11.

Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Bonamia exitiosa*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.2.3.